

# **Somerville Commission for Women Meeting**

May 25, 2021

7:00pm

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**Present:**

**Crystal Turner  
Stephanie Galaitsi  
Deborah Lormeus**

**Guests:**

**Annie Yao**

**Absent:**

**Fabia Oliveira**

**Staff Members in Attendance: Jennifer Mancia**

**Meeting Called to Order:**

Crystal Turner called meeting to order 7:05 Deborah seconded

Approval of Minutes: Crystal motion to approve all in favor.

Guests and Interest in the Commission: Annie interested in reflecting on beliefs and want to take action. Want to make a tangible impact in local community. Received power point, saw self aligned with the mission, bring different perspective and diversity. Want to help build up the community. At the same time as an immigrant can bring in perspectives and skill sets. Sounds like Commission is going through an important chapter.

Coffee and Chat: Deborah, original discussion was for commissioners to get to know each other on an informal basis, but keeping it open to the public. Not to endorse anything just to simply get to know each other. Crystal aim for July? Stephanie 7pm difficult. Weekend in the daytime? Can also meet in person. Crystal, pick the date now? Deborah, yes pick it now. Deborah, third week July 24<sup>th</sup> 2pm. Location to be determined.

Budget & Structure: Mayor called, still working through the process. Not sure how the Director RSJ is putting forth a solution without talking to the Commission. Crystal proposing a motion to make June meeting public forum and use as opportunity to present solutions, invite elected officials, two levers funding and make adjustments to the ordinance. Can require someone from council, commission, children's cabinet and Mayor's office be part of the Commission. Leaning towards that direction. Would want to hear from public, but may have to submit something preemptively. We have to do something. If don't change the structure this feels like an exercise in busy work. May need to have a meeting in between to plan this. The Mayor said that he would come, but if he can't someone from the administration can come. Stephanie can put in some time to help with planning. Deborah support the idea, worthy cause to get some structure in place. Crystal will think about what needs to be done. Stephanie we should think really hard about who our audience is. We would look better if we could bring other women. Maybe invite the Patch. Crystal – audience is current Mayor, future elected officials, things may be completely different in November, women at large, women organizations. Stephanie, the stuff that we haven't been able to do due to capacity, disempowered please come and help us advocate for ourselves. Need and Executive Director who has the pull to get things done. This is currently an exercise in busy work. Crystal will make a formal request for FY22. FY22 commit to solution to bring n compliance with resolution, funding, how to plan to prioritize,

put forth a proclamation but has a lot of headlines. There hasn't been outreach done. Need a director who has the director to do those things. If there is no answer that will be very telling. Crystal motion to turn June meeting in public forum to discuss solutions for the Commission, all in favor. Will have to set up a second meeting. Crystal will reach out to the City Councilors. Not enough time for a survey, but people can submit testimony or reserve time in the meeting for testimonies. Record and post? Cognizant of the date, consider if the normal time is in the middle of budget. Was told it's not too late to have the meeting in relation to the budget. Stephanie will draft the flyer. Crystal we should put something in the newspapers as well. Can invite the media. Stephanie, will write up a media advisory. Sub meeting next Tuesday same time. Wednesday June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Crystal will reach out to Katjana to see if she can come.

Act [SD.994/HD.1418](#): State Commission sent an email asking for support. It's an act that the Commission has supported in the past. Is this something that we want to support? Goal is to empower more women. Stephanie, what is the impac? Crystal right now it's just endorsing? Stephanie, who? Crystal, they just want to cite community support, but we could get more involved. Crystal motion to endorse? Unanimous in favor.

Alliance for Safe Streets: Stephanie, infrastructure guide workshopping with the different commissions. Looking into the issue of lighting, which is a major factor in pedestrians being hit. Book about infrastructure being managed in a way that impacts women, would be good for us to understand where we can impact infrastructure.

Next Steps: Agenda ,Structure of the meeting, comments from Commissioners, Elected Officials and public comments, brainstorm who we want to contact and how to advertise,Crystal draft column; put view out there ahead of time, copy of Media Advisory, public testimony form or survey, finalizing flyer & contacts, opportunity to coordinate with Charter Review Committee.

Motion to close the meeting and approved at 8:16pm.